

Resource Document

Summer Safety

What ARAP Tells Us About Summer Trends

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Narrative:

The Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP) gives commanders and directors the opportunity to provide two write-in responses with the ARAP assessment. These two comments are; question 62, “The most hazardous thing I do is...”, and question 63, “The most important action(s) my unit can take to improve safety is/are...”.

Data extracted from ARAP question 62 was used to formulate this resource document. The assessment asks an individual for the most hazardous activity in which he or she participates. From this information we are able to extract outdoor activities that individuals participate during the summer.

The top eight summer activities were extracted from more than 16,000 responses. Respondents were then separated into three demographic groups: E-6 and below, E-7 and above, and Civilian. The civilian demographic contains all Department of the Army civilians, contractors, foreign nationals and non-appropriated funds personnel. Since ARAP’s inception in October 2005, more than 1.5 million assessments have been completed.

Survey Results:

Table 1. Activities in which personnel participate.

E-6 and below	E-7 and above	Civilian
1. Alcohol/Drinking 31% 2. Running/Jogging 12% 3. Walking/Hiking 11% 4. Weight Lifting 3% 5. Swim/Boat/Water Ski 3% 6. Intramural Sports 3% 7. Hunting 2% 8. Rock Climbing 1%	1. Alcohol/Drinking 5% 2. Swim/Boat/Water Ski 4% 3. Walking/Hiking 3% 4. Weight Lifting 3% 5. Jogging/Running 2% 6. Intramural Sports 1% 7. Hunting 1% 8. Rock Climbing >1%	1. Walking/Hiking 12% 2. Jogging/Running 2% 3. Walking/Hiking >1% 4. Rock Climbing >1% 5. Weight Lifting >1% 6. Hunting >1% 7. Alcohol/Drinking >1% 8. Intramural Sports >1% <div style="text-align: right;">n =</div> 16,287

The data, outlined in Table 1, indicates that 31 percent of all *E-6 and below* respondents and 5 percent of all *E-7 and above* respondents indicated that the consumption of alcohol was the most hazardous thing that they did. This is more than one third (36%) of all respondents. The *Civilian* group accounted for less than 1 percent of all participants. Questions unit leaders should be asking:

- Are my friends planning an off-duty summer outdoor activity that involves alcohol consumption?
- Is my unit planning an on-duty unit-sponsored summer outdoor activity that involves alcohol consumption?
- Are we taking the necessary precautions to insure every member of the team has a plan for departing safely from the event?
- Have we considered omitting alcohol from our outdoor summer activities?
- When alcohol is available and consumed, is there a plan for providing designated drivers to those who have consumed alcohol?
- When alcohol is available and consumed, are we mitigating other risks (not mixing alcohol with privately owned weapons (POW), encouraging moderation, providing food and non-alcoholic beverages, etc.)?

The other activities listed in Table 1 also pose potential hazards and risks. Individuals conducting these activities may not be aware of all the hazards and risks associated with them, and may not have honed their risk management strategies for them especially when associated with alcohol use. Leaders must have the ability and willingness to identify these activities and explain methods to mitigate risks. It is important to stress safety in all outdoor activities especially during the warmer months, as statistics and trends indicate the more off-duty deaths occur between April and September.

Talking points:

- By understanding their unit's safety needs, leaders can best direct resources and develop programs to keep their Soldiers and Civilians safe and mission ready

Tips:

- Conduct mandatory safety briefings for all extended holidays this summer (Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day).
- Express the negative effects of alcohol use, especially when driving or operating equipment.
- Misuse of POWs can result in death or injury of you, your battle buddies, and your family members. Know who within your organization owns a POW. Just because a Soldier may be knowledgeable and trained on his/her assigned tactical weapon does not guarantee the same with his/her POM.
- Know who within your organization owns and rides a PMV-2 (motorcycles). Ensure they are properly licensed, have and wear the proper personal protective equipment, and have completed mandatory PMV-2 training.
- Consider all aspects of summer activities when you conduct safety briefings and safety stand-down days.
- ARAP provides commanders and directors with activities that their personnel are involved with both on and off duty. Take advantage of what ARAP offers.

Statistics:

- Last summer (25 May 2012 to 4 Sep 2012), 40 Soldiers lost their lives in off-duty accidents. Listed are the major causes of the 40 Class A accidents. Note (#) indicates these events were alcohol related and the number of incidents.
 - 2 Privately Owned Weapon (POW) discharge (1)
 - 1 drowning
 - 1 fall (1)
 - 36 Private Motor Vehicle (PMV); not on official business (8)
 - Alcohol consumption was involved in ten of the 40 fatalities (25 percent).
- Any life lost needlessly is a waste of our most important resource, our people.
- Off-duty PMV accidents result in highest number of Soldiers deaths.

Resources:

Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation

<https://safety.army.mil/ODSAP>

POV/POM Toolbox

<https://safety.army.mil/povtoolbox>

Range & Weapons Safety Toolbox

<https://safety.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety>

Off Duty On Guard

<http://www.tradoc.army.mil/offdutyonguard>

Army Readiness Assessment Program

<https://arap.safety.army.mil>

ARAP Information Paper

https://safety.army.mil/Portals/multimedia/Repository/InfoPapers/CRC_Info_Paper_PPA_ARAP_27Nov2012.pdf